

fosters a sense of unity among all those who travel from far and wide to our beloved community in Vienna, Georgia.

CONGRATULATING KENNETH  
NASER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kenneth Naser upon his retirement as Executive Director of ALIVE! (ALEXandrians InVolved Ecumenically). ALIVE! is a nonprofit organization of 42 faith communities working together for 45 years to help Alexandrians facing emergency situations or long-term needs become capable of assuming self-reliant roles in the community. Many people talk about getting faith communities involved in helping those in need, but, through his work with ALIVE!, Ken has lived and led that effort in Alexandria.

Prior to becoming the first Executive Director of ALIVE! 10 years ago, Ken volunteered for ALIVE! for close to 30 years, served as chair of two of its programs and as President in 1982–83. During Ken's term as Executive Director, ALIVE! increased its reach and its assistance to families in need. This growth

now allows ALIVE! to help over 14,000 individuals in need each year with food, financial assistance, early childhood education, transitional housing, furniture and house wares.

ALIVE!'s largest programs—the monthly Last Saturday Food Distribution and the Family Emergency Program daily delivery of food—have grown from assisting approximately 1200 individuals each month in 2003 to serving over 3000 individuals each month in 2014. Financial assistance provided to families who cannot make rent, utility or medical payments has grown from \$130,000 annually to over \$310,000 this year. Ken has worked closely with City social workers and other nonprofits in the City to assure that families who need food, financial aid, furniture or house wares receive assistance.

Ken also has helped ALIVE!'s Child Development Center grow and improve, both as a volunteer chair of the committee overseeing its operation and in the Executive Director role, where he exercises a key, day-to-day oversight function. Ken has been instrumental as the Center has received national accreditation and also was highly rated by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Center assists working families who pay sliding scale fees based on their income level, and fundraising efforts, under Ken's direction, make up the difference in cost.

During Ken's term as Executive Director, ALIVE! House, which is a transitional housing

program for four women and their children, has expanded its program and undergone a major renovation. The women at ALIVE! House are provided the support they need to secure a job, improve parenting skills, and develop other life skills that will allow them to live on their own. Over the past five years alone, Ken has been involved in helping 21 families change their lives and live independently.

Ken has been active in other non-profit activities as well. He was recognized for his efforts in 2010 when Volunteer Alexandria awarded him the Nonprofit Leader of the Year award. Most recently, he has been a leader in the effort to bring faith communities, nonprofits, local businesses and the City together in support of "A Hunger Free Alexandria." Lending his skills to this initiative, Ken has worked to assure that families and individuals in Alexandria have access to affordable, healthy food and that no one in Alexandria goes hungry.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me congratulate Ken Naser on his outstanding career at ALIVE! and his many contributions toward making Alexandria a better place to live for all citizens, but particularly those most in need. After close to 40 years as a volunteer and then Executive Director at ALIVE!, we wish Ken a long and happy retirement and know that, even in retirement, he will continue to find ways to help the less fortunate in our community.